

## AWARDS

### Besson Awards Recognize Procurement Excellence

At a recent U.S. Army Materiel Command (AMC) conference, Elizabeth H. Moulder, MAJ Jeffrey A. Gabbert, and Joann M. Underwood received the 1999 Frank S. Besson Award for Procurement Excellence. Sallie H. Flavin, AMC's Assistant Deputy Chief of Staff for Research, Development and Acquisition-Acquisition, Contracting and Program Management, presided over a ceremony recognizing the awardees for their accomplishments.

The prestigious Besson Award was established in honor of GEN Frank S. Besson, the first AMC Commander, and his lifelong achievements in acquisition. The award recognizes individual excellence in the AMC contracting workforce. Selection for the award is based on demonstrated technical expertise and development and implementation of innovative procurement-related ideas or processes in support of AMC's mission. Awards are made annually to recognize exceptional achievements by an AMC civilian careerist, military officer, and intern.

Elizabeth H. Moulder, a civilian careerist, is a Lead Contract Specialist at the U.S. Army Aviation and Missile Command (AMCOM), Redstone Arsenal, AL. Moulder was honored for her diligence in leading a Team Redstone effort to develop a flexible and efficient program for the acquisition of contract advisory and assistance services, the Omnibus 2000 Program. Moulder's leadership enabled the team to create a program that provides many customers timely access to a broad range of cost-effective logistics and programmatic and technical expertise. She has both a bachelor's and a master's (Summa Cum Laude) degree in music, has completed a course of study in business, is Level III certified in contracting, and is a member of a number of professional organizations. Moulder has 19 years of tri-Service acquisition experience.

MAJ Jeffrey A. Gabbert, Apache Procurement Division Chief, AMCOM, Redstone Arsenal, AL, was recognized for designing and implementing a number of innovative paperless business processes. Gabbert created automated letter log and contract dissemination processes that will provide more than \$450,000 in validated savings during the next 5 years. He collaborated with contractor representatives to create a secure Web page that is used in an "Alpha-contracting" approach to facilitate communications and cut acquisition lead times. Gabbert instituted metrics that improved his organization's ability to demonstrate the value it provides to its customers and developed a system to integrate these metrics with employee performance objectives. He holds a B.A. in business management and is certified in both contracting (Level III) and program management (Level II). During his 14 years of military service, Gabbert has received numerous military awards and decorations.

Contract Specialist Joann M. Underwood, the intern recipient of the 1999 Besson Award, started her contracting career with the U.S. Army Communications-Electronics Command, Fort Monmouth, NJ, in 1997. Underwood was commended for her efforts in defining the item pricing structure, creating a complex cost-evaluation model, and for serving on a source selec-



***Pictured (left to right) are Edward Elgart, Principal Assistant Responsible for Contracting (PARC), CECOM; Underwood; Gabbert; Moulder; Marline Cruze, PARC, AMCOM; Flavin***

tion board to support the Army's Infrastructure Solutions acquisition. She was also praised for her efforts in expeditiously developing and issuing one of the Army's first enterprise software licensing agreements, which resulted in a 42-percent savings for the Army. Underwood holds a B.A. in economics and political science, is Level II certified in contracting, and received an exceptional intern performance award in 1998.

Each October, AMC requests nominations for the Besson Award. Procedural guidance for the award is contained in AMC Regulation 672-10 and can be accessed at <http://www.amc.army.mil/amc/rda/rda-ac/besson/besson.htm>. For additional information, contact Scott Crosson at (703) 617-0544 or [scrosson@hqamc.army.mil](mailto:scrosson@hqamc.army.mil).

### Secretary Of Defense Awards For Excellence

Three Department of the Army employees were chosen from more than 100 participants on the Section 912c Product Support Reengineering Implementation team to receive the Office of the Secretary of Defense Award for Excellence. They distinguished themselves and their organizations by providing critical assessments and making substantial technical and analytical contributions to ensure the *Product Support for the 21st Century* report reflected attention to enhanced warfighter agility, improved customer service, and integrated logistics chains. This report comprehensively identified efforts to re-engineer the weapons system product support process to use best-commercial practices, competitive sourcing, continuous technology refreshment, and expanded prime vendor processes. These three employees served as an effective bridge between OSD and the Army in coordinating and resolving many implementation issues associated with this complex and far-reaching strategic change initiative. This plan is a critical part of the DOD Logistics

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Transformation strategy and is the centerpiece for integration of acquisition and logistics initiatives, a key tenet of acquisition reform. The Army honorees and their contributions are as follows:

**Betsy McChesney** is a Materiel Acquisition Specialist in the Office of the Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Army for Plans, Programs and Policy. As the Army acquisition organization lead on the implementation team, McChesney played a key role in organizing Army staff and subordinate command participation. McChesney was vital in supporting efforts to identify competitive sourcing strategies to improve weapon system performance and reduce total ownership costs.

**Larry W. Hill** serves as the Chief of the Integrated Logistics Support Branch in the Office of the Deputy Chief of Staff for Logistics. He was the Army logistics organization lead on the implementation team and played a key role in organizing Army staff and subordinate command participation. Hill was vital in supporting efforts to identify best commercial and government practices to re-engineer product support.

**Michael Rybacki** works as an Operations Research Analyst at the Army Logistics Integration Agency. He led the implementation team in examining how to increase the application of best-commercial practices to DOD logistics operations. These efforts served as an architectural backdrop for all other product support re-engineering initiatives. Rybacki was vital in performing analysis that contributed to the concept of operations for product support. He also identified key outcome measures to guide product support implementation.

### Bradley Team Wins EPA Award For Halon Replacement Program

In September 1999, the Bradley Project Management Team, Program Executive Office for Ground Combat Support Systems (PEO, GCSS) won the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA's) prestigious 1999 Stratospheric Ozone Protection Award. The team was recognized for its development of a halon retrofit program. This program marks a significant trend in the Army's continued commitment to protect its soldiers and their environment.

Discovering a superior means to extinguish fires using an ozone-friendly agent, while simultaneously protecting the soldier, became team Bradley's mission from 1994 through 1999. This effort resulted in the first halon retrofit program for any major U.S. weapon system. The program will result in removal of approximately 55,000 pounds of Halon 1301 from the field by 2001.

When notified that his team was to receive the award, Ted Vician, Lead Engineer in the Bradley Fighting Vehicle System (BFVS) Project Management Office, stated, "The conversion will ultimately extract all existing halon out of the entire fleet of Bradley's engine compartment fire suppression systems and replace [it] with a safer, less expensive firefighting agent."

Benedict DeMarco, Chief of the Bradley Engineering Team, represented the Bradley team at the award ceremony. The team

joined an elite group of award recipients from around the world, all hailed for advancements in the areas of ozone and climate control.

Robert Perciasepe, EPA Assistant Administrator, described the participants' efforts as a "technology breakthrough," eliminating ozone-depleting chemicals and saving consumers billions of dollars. He further described the award recipients as "exemplifying the forefront of our efforts to protect the ozone layer and to mitigate the effects of global climate change." (The ozone layer prevents many detrimental health effects by filtering ultraviolet radiation from the Earth.)

The Bradley has long been an intrinsic asset in the Army's weapons arsenal and is identified as a turreted, full-tracked combat vehicle that weighs 30-35 tons, depending on model and configuration. It functions as an infantry-fighting (M2) and a cavalry-fighting (M3) vehicle. As such, the Bradley sees front-line combat action in conjunction with the M1 Abrams tank.

An inherent threat of fire to the Bradley exists because it carries several hundred gallons of diesel fuel, missiles, and multiple rounds of ammunition. It can be in danger from opposing infantry-fighting vehicles, landmines, or artillery.

The Army currently has more than 6,500 fielded Bradleys equipped with an engine compartment fire suppression system (FSS). This system protects the crew and vehicle by preventing uncontrollable engine fires. These fire extinguisher systems were initially designed using Halon 1301, a gaseous, colorless, and odorless fire-suppression agent that has been used for more than 30 years.

Before being recognized as an ozone-depleting chemical, halon was chosen as the best fire-suppressant agent on the market because it is relatively harmless to people. Its combination of low weight and low toxicity deemed it capable of extinguishing a fire in less than 250 milliseconds, the military requirement for an FSS.

More than a quarter second's exposure to the intensity of fire that can occur in the Bradley's crew area can be hazardous to the soldier. Exposure of less than 250 milliseconds, however, generally limits injuries to first-degree burns.

The fire detector operates in 100 milliseconds, leaving 150 milliseconds to extinguish the fire. The current FSS extinguishes the fire by releasing 10 pounds of Halon 1301 stored in two high-pressure bottles on the curbside of the vehicle, just behind the turret. When the valves open, halon streams out of each nozzle and rapidly evaporates, filling the volume of the vehicle to draw the heat away and suppress the fire.

In 1989, DOD issued a directive to identify halon applications and to decrease dependence on them. This directive stemmed from the requirements of the 1987 Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer, an international treaty negotiated through the United Nations. Under the terms of the Montreal Protocol, the manufacture of halon was halted Jan. 1, 1994, in most countries.

The great concern in protecting the ozone layer was expressed by an EPA assistant administrator at the award ceremony when he said, "Ozone levels over Antarctica fall by over 60 percent some years. In 1998, NASA/NOAA [National

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Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration] satellites determined the Antarctica ozone thinning covers the largest expansion of territory since the depletion was first identified in the early 1980s."

Though the Bradley team knew replacing halon would be no easy task, in 1994 it began the systematic, detailed investigation of the performance of the engine compartment FSS, the operational requirements associated with that system, and characteristics of various commercially available, ozone-friendly fire-suppression agents.

In 1996, Steve McCormick, an Engineer with the U.S. Army Tank-automotive and Armaments Command's (TACOM's) Tank Automotive Research, Development and Engineering Center, provided data that narrowed the research to two possible halon replacements: a dry powder and a gaseous agent. The dry powder is primarily sodium bicarbonate (baking soda) pressurized with nitrogen, and the gaseous agent is halon substitute HFC-227ea.

Initial testing of the two agents revealed that both could be used on the Bradley. However, use of the dry powder would require rework of the FSS, whereas the gaseous chemical was nearly a "drop-in" replacement for halon.

Consequently, HFC-227ea, known by its trade name FM-200, was chosen. FM-200 contains no bromine, the ozone-depleting agent in halon. The fluorine in FM-200 reacts readily with water to form a strong acid so it never rises high enough in the atmosphere to harm the ozone layer.

FM-200 was patented in 1992 by Great Lakes Chemical Co. and has the lowest observable adverse effect level (LOAEL) relating to toxicity. The LOAEL is 10.5 percent, or 105,000 parts per million. The technical design goal for an FSS using FM-200 is 7 percent, well below the LOAEL.

The retrofit program in progress at Red River Army Depot, TX, is based on an engineering change to the bottle-valve assembly of the BFVS engine compartments' fire extinguishing system. The cylinder is reused, as is the valve. The valve is remanufactured to change some items. These remanufactured assemblies are installed in production vehicles as they leave the factory.

A retrofit team from United Defense Limited Partnership, the prime contractor for the Bradley, is installing remanufactured bottles in fielded vehicles around the world.

The widespread interest in the halon replacement mandate has caught the attention of military teams managing many different systems. In addition, the PEO, GCSS Bradley team routinely answers inquiries from others about the halon retrofit program. In fact, the Bradley team has been discussing the retrofit with Program Manager (PM), Light Armored Vehicles and PM, Advanced Amphibious Assault Vehicle.

EPA's Dr. Stephen O. Andersen told the audience at the award ceremony, "I hope you can appreciate that in the history of stratosphere ozone protection and now in climate protection, the United States military has been a leader and has won many of these awards."

The BFVS Project Management Office is continuing its efforts in halon replacement in crew areas. The office is also

looking into integration of potential replacements using modeling and simulation.

This effort represents just one part of an overall effort by PM, Bradley to maintain a broad commitment to environmental stewardship. The Bradley Environmental Management Team has won the Secretary of the Army Pollution Prevention Award for Weapon System Acquisition Teams for 1995-97, and in April 2000 received the Secretary of the Army Pollution Prevention Award for 1999.

For more information on this matter, contact Ted Vician in the BFVS Project Management Office at (810) 574-7650.

To read more about ozone matters, visit the Web site at <http://www.nas.nasa.gov/Services/Education/Resources/TeacherWork/Ozone/Ozone.homepage.html>.

*The preceding article was written by Margaret Compton, a Staff Writer in TACOM's Public Affairs Office, Warren, MI.*

## CG USAREUR Incentive Awards Presented

At a ceremony held in Heidelberg, Germany, late last year, two individuals received the 1998 Commanding General, U.S. Army, Europe (USAREUR) Annual Incentive Award for contracting and acquisition achievements. Their contributions helped acquire quality supplies and services in a cost-effective manner.

Bill Mysliwiec was recognized for his superior performance as the Chief of the Contracting Division at the Regional Contracting Office, Seckenheim, Germany. He distinguished himself by personally working to help adopt several acquisition reform initiatives. This included serving as Team Leader on the Acquisition Development Assistance Team, which won Vice President Gore's Hammer Award; developing a new multitrade construction, repair, and maintenance contract format; and marketing and fielding the new customer, contracting, and commerce modified two-step contracting process.

MAJ Daniel Rosso was commended for his selfless service, innovation, and leadership during several deployments in 1998. During those deployments, he fostered close ties with NATO contracting offices in the Balkans and streamlined operations in the local Hungary office. He served in Greece on a host-nation exercise and was deployed to Israel in support of Operation Desert Fox. Rosso's knowledge, skills, and abilities set him apart as an ultimate contracting professional. Rosso was the initial contracting officer that spearheaded support for Task Force Hawk in Albania. His leadership and team efforts made contracting a key element in support of combat operations.

Mysliwiec and Rosso were also acknowledged for improving the overall quality, efficiency, and effectiveness of the acquisition cycle; demonstrating excellence in relationships with contractors, co-workers, and management; and for maintaining a high level of professional standards and demonstrating the ability to effectively solve acquisition issues and problems.